Taxes levied under Article 276 of the Constitution

802. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax on profession, trades, employment, etc. are levied under Article 276 of the Constitution of India and that as per the 1988 amendment, the maximum tax that can be collected from an individual is fixed as Rs. 2500/- per annum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether having regard to the present rate of inflation and buoyancy in services, the State Government of Karnataka has requested of the tax to Rs. 10,000/- per annum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Centre's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per constitution (Sixtieth Amendment) Act, 1988, with effect from 20.12.1988, the total amount payable in respect of any person to State or to any one municipality, district board, local board or other authority in the State by way of taxes on professions, trade, callings and employment was raised to "two thousand and five hundred rupees" per annum.

(c) and (d) No formal written proposal has been received from Government of Karnataka. Government of Karnataka has informed that it has proposed for revision of this limit at various fora of discussion with the Central Government. The Central Government is considering revision of the ceiling on profession tax, by amending Article 276.

Security measures for the Stock Market

803. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is proposing any security measures for the benefit of investors in the background of fragile nature of the Stock Market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) SEBI and the Exchanges have put in place systems and practices to promote a safe, transparent and efficient market and to protect market integrity. The systems include advanced risk management mechanism comprising on-line monitoring and surveillance and various limits on positions, margin requirements, circuit filters, etc. Besides, SEBI keeps a constant vigil on the market, and in case of any abnormality, take appropriate action against the concerned entities. SEBI, Exchanges and market participant organise investor awareness and education programmes. The systems and practices are continiously reviewed and modified in the interest of investors.

Surplus capital with Public Sector Enterprises

†804. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Sector Enterprises in the country are having huge amount of capital which is not invested in production work directly;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.